

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
2011 Executive Order 29 Recommendation #5
Voting Status of *Ex Officio* Members of the Board of Veterans Services

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Strengthen the capacity of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) to fulfill the Powers and Duties set forth in the Code of Virginia by granting voting privileges to all *ex officio* members.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - BVS was established in 2003 as a policy board in the executive branch of state government. The Board consists of:
 - 11 citizen members, appointed by the Governor;
 - 5 legislative members; and
 - 3 *ex officio* members.
 - The Commissioner of Veterans Services serves *ex officio* with full voting privileges.
 - The Chairmen of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) and of the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations serve *ex officio* without voting privileges.
 - Under §2.2-2452, a majority of the Board members constitutes a quorum. Under current law, the BVS must actually have two quorums to conduct business – a quorum of all members, and a quorum of voting members.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The BVS works closely with the VSF and JLC to support the delivery of veterans services in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - For example, the JLC might advance an issue to the BVS for study. After study, the BVS could return the issue to the JLC, pass it to the Commissioner for action, or advise that the VSF seek donated or other funding for the issue.
 - Because of the close interaction between the three boards and the critical linking role played by the BVS, the JLC and VSF should be fully represented on the BVS.
 - In situations like the BVS, Roberts Rules of Order recommends full participation by all board members, including *ex officio* members.
 - Granting voting privileges to all *ex officio* members is cost neutral, as these members already attend BVS meetings.
4. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That voting status be granted to all *ex officio* members of the Board of Veterans Services.